

Scotland's new Climate Law

Your guide to responding to the Scottish Parliament consultation

The Scottish Parliament are in the early stages of discussing a new climate law that will determine Scotland's level of action on climate change for decades to come.

So far, the draft law is too weak. It does nothing to further cut climate pollution in the vital next decade, and fails to set a date for Scotland to reach net-zero emissions.

Now the Environment, Climate Change, and Land Reform (ECCLR) committee – a cross-party group of MSPs in the Scottish Parliament – want to know your views. This committee rarely hears from the public, so it's important to show them the public demand for climate action and tell them what you think needs to change.

How to respond to the consultation

To respond, fill out the template form [here](#), then email it as an attachment to climatechangebill@parliament.scot. The deadline is **Thursday 23rd August 2018**.

This is your evidence, so what you say is up to you. We've shared an overview of our key points below – but we don't want you to just copy and paste what we're saying. The impact will be bigger if you're saying similar things in your own words.

You might want to touch on:

- Why action on climate change is important to you
- Why you think the Bill needs to be more ambitious than the current targets
- Last summer's consultation process and outcome, if you responded to it
- Your thoughts on any of the [other areas](#) the committee has asked for comment on. It's a long list though, you don't have to comment on every area!
- Any particular experience you have in a relevant field

Our key points

Climate change is already here. This summer saw extreme weather and record breaking temperatures around the world; we have no time to delay.

This Bill **doesn't meet the Paris Agreement** which commits all nations to playing their part in limiting global warming to 1.5C, especially requiring wealthy nations like Scotland, with a history of contributing to climate change, to do much more.

We need urgent action. The Bill doesn't commit Scotland to cutting climate emissions any further in the next decade. We already had a target to cut our greenhouse gases 66% by 2032, the new bill brings that forward only 2 years to 66% by 2030. We're calling for a 2030 target of 77%.

While the Bill includes a new section called 'the net-zero target', it doesn't actually set a net-zero target. It sets a 90% reduction in Scotland's climate emissions by 2050 - a slight increase from the current target of 80%. We're calling for a target of **net-zero emissions by 2040**.

Scottish Government said they won't set a target for net-zero because they don't know exactly how to meet it, and that they will set a net-zero target when it is 'credible and responsible' to do so. But when climate change is already here, the only credible and responsible action is to set the ambitious target now that science shows will play our part in limiting global warming. We can't afford to delay.

Last year over 19,000 people responded to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Climate Bill, 99% of which called for a stronger 2030 target, and net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, with policies put in place to deliver on these targets. It's deeply disappointing that these views were disregarded.

What happens next:

The ECCLR Committee will consider all the responses to the consultation, and will also hold meetings throughout the autumn where they invite experts and stakeholders into Parliament to discuss the climate bill.

They will then publish a report on the Bill in January which will outline the responses the committee received, including yours, and make recommendations to MSPs on how the Bill can be improved. The contents of this report will shape the how the Bill gets amended in the later stages of its journey through parliament.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact:

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